(b) to (d) The Chairman of Railway Claims Tribunal has *inter-alia* represented that the maximum compensation which was fixed long back for the victims of Railway, accidents and untoward incidents needs to be enhanced having regard to the rupee value now and then.

With effect from 1st November, 1997, the amount of compensation in case of death was increased from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 4 lakhs. Similarly in case of injury, the minimum amount of compensation was increased from Rs. 16 thousand to Rs. 32 thousand and the maximum amount was increased from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 4 lakhs.

Train from Lucknow to Goa

†2100. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that there is no train from Lucknow to Goa for the public of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether Government would arrange to operate any train from-Lucknow to Goa;

(c) if so, by when;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government would consider to extend the train running from Lucknow to Pune upto Goa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. There is no direct train between Lucknow and Goa.

(b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Due to operational and resource constraints.

(e) No, Sir.

Encroachment of railway land

2101. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of railway land that has been encroached in Delhi and since when; and

(b) what steps have been taken to clear the encroachments and the reasons for failing to get the encroachments cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Approximately 40 hectares of Railway land in Delhi has been encroached over various years.

(b) Various steps have been taken for removal of encroachments, which also include action under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1971. In the National Capital Territory of Delhi, railways have agreed to bear part cost of relocation of Pre-1998 encroachers located on Railway land in 'Safety Zone' and on land required for execution of sanctioned projects, as per the Resettlement and Rehabilitation policy of Delhi Government, which has the approval of the Ministry of Urban Development. Northern Railway have deposited over Rs.11 crores with the Government of Delhi on this account, for relocating 'Jhuggies Jhopries', to get encroachments removed from railway land. Regular chasing and meetings are done by railway officials with Delhi Government officials. All efforts are made by railway towards proper co-ordination with the Government of Delhi including seeking assistance of local police and Magistrate as eviction of encroachers often lead to law and order problems. The co-operation of the Government of Delhi in removal of encroachers has not been adequate.

Connecting Kashmir valley to rest of India

2102. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway's ambitious project to connect Kashmir valley to rest of India through Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla railway track is going to cost almost two and half times more than what was estimated earlier;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) what is the budget and time frame for this project alongwith the details. thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) and (b) The rough estimated cost at the time of preparation of project report was assessed as Rs. 3077 crore. Now, the cost has been estimated as Rs. 11,270 crore after completion of detailed engineering survey. Earlier estimate was prepared on the basis of topo sheets and aerial photographs as detailed survey could not be completed due to highly difficult inaccessible terrain and adverse condition/ situation of the area.

(c) An outlay of Rs. 1700 crore has been proposed as an additionality during 2007-08. An expenditure of Rs. 3836 crore has been incurred upto March, 2007. The project is proposed for completion as per following schedule:–

Udhampur–Katra – December, 2008.

Katra–Qazigund – 2011-12.

Qazigund-Baramulla – May, 2008.

Dependence on BSNL regarding PRS services

2103. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is facing difficulties on links to BSNL in regard to their PRS services; and